RAW WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS

PRIORITY CONSERVATION PROGRAMS
WISH LIST: 2016-2018

“We want to ignite a passion for environmentally conscious behaviour in our guests, leading by example with our sound, ethical principles.”
~ Jessica McKelson CEO Raw Wildlife Encounters
MESSAGE FROM CEO RAW WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS, JESSICA MCKELSON

"Thank you for booking your next exciting eco-tour with Raw Wildlife Encounters (RWE). I am proud to be leading a grassroots eco-tourism company that cares deeply about people and the environment in all the places we visit.

In 2009, I took the big step to develop this travel agency to support an ex illegal logging community bordering the Gunung Leuser National Park (GLNP), in North Sumatra Indonesia. My goal is to save the rainforest and Sumatran orangutans and this cannot be achieved unless we work directly with communities bordering the natural environments where orangutans live.

After spending over 5 years (2004-09) working amongst these local communities and supporting them to shape eco-tourism initiatives as an alternative income, I thought it was time to bring other people to these amazing destinations, which I fell in love with over 13 years ago, and inspire them to join my mission.

RWE has partnered closely with these communities to provide support, inspiration, motivation and the capacity to meet their goals. We do this in a number of different ways, with various programs covering different aspects. Our guests play an integral part in this process, by donating funds to help operate our priority programs; visiting the local communities and witnessing the support firsthand; interacting with the local people; and donating ‘goods in kind’ resources for the community conservation programmes we work with.

Many of our guests develop a deep respect and love for the places they visit and the people they meet and return home to become ‘Raw Angels’, providing direct support to RWE initiatives or even setting up their own programs to help where they can.

Since 2010, we have donated over $800,000AUD towards priority conservation programs in North Sumatra. We want to grow our outreach efforts and focus the next 2 years on key projects, which work at a grassroots level. YOU will witness this on your next journey to North Sumatra and are already a part of the support network, by booking your tour with us.

This guide is for all our RWE travellers, which visit North Sumatra. YOU will be able to give back to our programs and help us support the communities and environment that we love to visit.

Below is a list of items we are seeking and we ask if you are able to help us spread the word and bring any of the items over to Sumatra on your next visit. We welcome any donation and also any businesses that want to help us meet our objective to supply the equipment and items below. Recognition for your efforts to help us will be shared with our extensive RWE community via our monthly email, FB page and also Instagram accounts.

If you need assistance and need to contact us about any of the items below, please contact me directly. I am happy to assist and provide you with further information.

Become part of our RWE journey to implement positive changes and behaviour for a better world in each place we visit. Thank you for your support and I look forward to meeting you in North Sumatra!"

~ Jessica McKelson, CEO Raw Wildlife Encounters
Learning Supplies for the Community Children Clubs (CCC) in Tangkahan, Batu Katak and Batu Rongring

Since 2010, RWE supports three community children clubs, where the kids have the opportunity to further develop learning skills after school hours. In Tangkahan, RWE supported the development of the English Club and is endeavouring to develop similar models in two other areas – Batu Katak and Batu Rongring.

Many kids in these remote villages receive no support to buy basic necessities for school – such as writing books, pencils and pens. They also lack the opportunity to extend their learning, as there are no libraries or other additional resources available.

Each time a RWE tour visits these areas, we encourage our guests to bring some of the supplies below and donate it directly to the school kids in need, so it can enhance their education and opportunities to learn. You will witness the support RWE provides for these children and be involved with giving back to the future generations.

**ITEMS OF SUPPORT NEEDED:**

- Reference books
- Khamus (English/Indonesian dictionaries)
- Flash cards
- Writing books / paper
- Pens, pencils
- Textas/felt tip pens, rulers, erasers (stationery)
- Whiteboard markers
- Stickers
- Poster paper
- Interactive games
- Reading books
- Floor mats / yoga mats
- Sports equipment
- Book bags
- Educational posters
- World map posters
- Small whiteboards
- Conservation/Animal based material
- Kids non toxic paint
- Paint brushes
The Sumatran Dog Program was created by RWE CEO Jess McKelson, to support over 800 dogs in the communities neighbouring the Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Programme (SOCP) Quarantine Station, Batu Katak, Batu Rongring and Tangkahan in North Sumatra, Indonesia. The aim is to improve the overall health and welfare of these dogs that currently lack adequate care and suffer from preventable diseases. Program activities include monthly free veterinarian checkups and treatments (worming, anti flea program and scabies treatments), free sterilisations every 6 months for cats and dogs and education about animal care and welfare. So far this program is treating over 80 animals per month with the goal to raise the number due to community support. RWE is seeking donations to enable us to continue this program for more dogs in these villages.

ITEMS OF SUPPORT NEEDED:

- Flea treatment for dogs: Frontline/Advantix/Revolution
- Worming treatments
- Blankets and towels
- Dog treats
- Large cages or carry boxes (petpacks)
- Collars
- Kongs or toys
- Food and water bowls
- Veterinary equipment and supplies
- Worming tablets for cats
- Surgical equipment
RWE has supported many programs for SOCP and is now seeking goods in kind donations for the orangutans. The medical items are updated every 3-4 months from the vet team and therefore if you can help us seek medical equipment, please contact Jess for a list.

ITEMS OF SUPPORT NEEDED:

- NEW Baby bottles
- NEW sheets and pillow cases
- NEW Dog Kong toys
- Medical equipment (please ask for a wishlist)
Equipment

All of the programs RWE supports require much needed logistical equipment for the field so we can continue to operate our priority conservation programs. We are extremely grateful if any of the following supplies can be donated. Either second hand or brand-new will be welcomed into the areas we visit. This equipment is required for our Ranger Program so we can extend our teams in each village we work with, to protect their natural resources on monthly patrols. It is also required for the Dog Health Program, Guide Development Program and Community Help Program. YOU can also directly give these items to the groups we visit in each location so you can also witness our efforts.

ITEMS OF SUPPORT NEEDED:

- Second hand mobile phones (unlocked for International network)
- Second hand cameras, video recorders
- Camping equipment: Trangia (gas cooker), utensils, camping plates, cups, bowls and cooking equipment,
- Sleeping bags (good condition),
- Camping (fold up) chairs
- Dry bags (all sizes)
- Backpacks all sizes
- Headtorches
- Binoculars
- Energy saving light bulbs
- Rechargeable batteries and chargers - all sizes
- Pocket knives
- Laptops
- Tablets or I pads
- Water bottles
- Sunglasses
- Hats
- GPS
- Tripod
- Tents
- FIRST AID SUPPLIES (all items will be appreciated)
Community Help Program

Many of the items we seek for the local communities can be **second hand or brand new**. The villages do not have enough money to purchase kids clothes and are often lacking much needed basic necessities. RWE offers the woman in two villages of Batu Katak and Batu Rongring the chance to divide donated goods. At the same time we want to provide them with education and resources surrounding diaper management by providing washable/recyclable diapers, so they do not dispose waste into their natural environment.

**ITEMS OF SUPPORT NEEDED:**

- Washable/ recyclable diapers
- Baby and children’s clothing
- Games and sports equipment
- Tshirts, shorts, adults clothes
- Rainjackets
- Sport Socks
- Khamus (English/Indonesian dictionaries)

*Days for Girls Mt Gambier* is a program we 100% support and we encourage all people to donate $25 towards a female hygiene pack. Please contact Jess McKelson for details to order these important items for the women in the villages.

**ITEMS THAT CAN BE PRE-PURCHASED FROM MEDAN**

- Shoes for the forest - $20 per pair
- Dictionaries (English/Indonesian) - $15 each
- Rechargeable batteries and charger - $20
- Large backpack for the Ranger program - $70
- Headtorch - $13
- Field pants $18

**CONNECT WITH US:**

Thank you for helping us to create positive action and joining a solution towards a brighter future. If you need to contact us about any of the donations, please contact CEO Jess McKelson or Program Leader Amy Robbins on the email below.

**Email:**
Jessica McKelson  jess@rawildlife.com.au
Amy Robbins  aimz37@gmail.com
**The Rangers of Tangkahan**

The Rangers of Tangkahan is the latest program, which RWE is thrilled to develop a strong partnership with and directly assist this extensive program to protect buffer zone habitats along the Gunung Leuser National Park. 10 men have been employed to manage this program which consists of monthly patrols collecting data on wildlife and illegal activity; community socialisation and develop strategic solutions for sustainable livelihoods. Some of these men are RWE guides and have chosen the path to conserve their natural habitat for future generations.

RWE Leader Amy Robbins and RAW Angel Cassandra Rowe are passionate about supporting these rangers and with the help and direct support of RWE CEO Jess McKelson, they founded The Rangers of Tangkahan in August 2016. The aim is to provide salaries each month for the rangers to do their work, as well as supplying them with the tools, resources and training they need in order for this dream to come true.

**Stay Wild**

Stay Wild is a program based in Batu Katak in North Sumatra. Launched by RWE Wildlife Leader Vanessa Rowe, Stay Wild is aimed at supporting the local community to protect their jungle (which is a prime location for the critically endangered Sumatran Tiger) and to develop strategies towards sustainable livelihood initiatives. Stay Wild and RWE have partnered to provide specialised eco tours in this location, whilst helping the local rangers to protect their natural environment. Stay Wild has already purchased camera traps to help the forest rangers monitor and protect the Gunung Leuser National Park and record the wildlife in this region.

Along with the eco tours, Stay Wild has recently helped to support a Honey Bee initiative within the local community; installing bee-hives adjacent to the village to encourage pollination of some of the rare plants in the area, as well as provide an income with the sales of honey.

**The Sumatran Dog Health Program**

Jess McKelson, CEO of RWE, has long worked in and with, the local communities of North Sumatra, both in her role as RWE CEO and when working for the Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Program for over 4 years. There has long been a need for education, support, and practical help for domestic animals in the local villages. Jess set up the Sumatran Dog Health Program as a direct result of this needed.

Coordinated by RWE leader Carly Day, the program aims to provide FREE education, routine health treatment and veterinary care to the dogs in the target villages; including vaccinations, monthly health checks for all dogs and free sterilisation. Already set up in one priority village, the program has started to expand in Tangkahan, Batu Katak and Batu Rongring. Sterilisation clinics have been implemented for the next 2 years and many more dogs will join the program. RWE is proud to support this program and partner with the Jakarta Animal Aid Network (JAAN). The program also aims to investigate the growing dog meat industry in Medan and launch initiatives with JAAN to slow down the cruel and unnecessary trade in dog meat.
Days for Girls

Days for Girls (DFG) is an international initiative that aims to help women and girls in low socio-economic communities to overcome some of the obstacles they face. In many of the villages we work with, the girls can’t afford sanitary health care and many have to miss days off school if they menstruate. Our RWE Angels from Australia formed a local chapter of DFG in 2016 and have been working hard to make reusable sanitary products for some of our local villages, while also holding workshops on women’s health and sex education. With strong relationships established between village reps from each village, Renee, Chelsea and Vicki have already distributed over 40 packs to Tangkahan and Batu Mbelin, with another 100 ready to go in the next few months.

RWE supports the work that DFG is doing and we will continue to provide guidance, education and empowerment the local women!

Community Help Program

RWE supports a wide variety of other initiatives within the local communities we support. This ranges from school kids (and willing adults) to learn English, with providing free dictionaries and educational materials to schools and community clubs, along with engaging the woman and donating much needed clothing and health items. Rather than RWE dictating what they need, the communities directly ask for our support and RWE develops a cooperative program with the village leaders and clubs to help with their priority needs.

The Tangkahan Effect

RWE Leader Christie Reeves and RWE guest Natalie Townsend, along with two local guides in Tangkahan, have set up the Tangkahan Effect (TTE) to support various community initiatives. RWE has partnered to support their efforts towards elephant welfare. TTE is working alongside the Conservation Response Unit (CRU) elephant orphanage to provide better animal care towards this important program, rather than the elephants returning to inadequate camps in Aceh, where negligence is common. TTE is supporting a nutrition program, where a garden has been established to produce various food supplies for the CRU elephants, whilst directly employing local community members to work on this program. TTE is also working closely with the CRU to develop elephant friendly eco tourism initiatives, such as transforming the current tourism elephant riding program, towards ideas such as: ‘walk with the elephants’. RWE has had a long previous history in supporting the CRU, but now supports the efforts TTE is adopting towards better elephant care and welfare.